

NEW-ENGLAND COURANT (BOSTON) SEPT. 17, 1722  
BOSTON GAZETTE SEPT. 17, 1722  
AMERICAN WEEKLY MERCURY (PHIL.) SEPT. 27, 1722  
FOLLOWING QUOTE APPEARED

"ON THURSDAY LAST TWO PATENTS PASSED THE GREAT SEAL FOR W. WOOD, ESQ; TO MAKE COPPER MONEY FOR THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND, AND HALF-PENCE, PENCE, AND TWO PENCES OF FINE MIX'D METAL, FOR THE USE OF HIS MAJESTY'S DOMINIONS IN AMERICA, FOR THE TERM OF 14 YEARS; AND THE COINAGE THEREOF WILL SPEEDILY BE SET ON FOOT."

\* RED IS MY HIGHLIGHT

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BOSTON NEWS-LETTER OCT. 15-22, 1722

"WE HEAR THAT TWO PATENTS UNDER THE GREAT SEAL ARE ORDERED FOR COYNING BRASS MONEY IN IRELAND, AND THE WEST INDIES...."

IN THE NEWS-LETTER'S ISSUE OF OCT. 3-10, 1722 THE TWO COIN TYPES ARE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

HIBERNIAS: "THE BEST ENGLISH COPPER...."

ROSAS: "FOR HIS MAJESTY'S PLANTATIONS IN AMERICA"

"THE AFORE-MENTIONED PIECES FOR AMERICA, WHICH WILL BE MADE OF A BEAUTIFUL COMPOUND METAL, AND WILL BE RECEIVED THERE IN THE KING'S REVENUES; HIS MAJESTY'S HEAD... ON THE ONE SIDE, AND ON THE REVERSE A ROSE WITH THIS MOTTO, ROSA AMERICANA: UTILE DULCI."

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Brian J. Danforth  
541 Clinton Ave  
Albany, NY 12206

August 28, 2001

When I met you by accident on the bourse floor at the ANA in Atlanta after intending to contact you somehow. I expressed my enthusiasm for your findings in your article as to the use of Wood's coinage in Ireland.

In the course of our conversation you indicated that you would send me the references to new facts on Rosa coinage which you found in the West Indies, etc. I am looking forward to that and naturally will not use them without your permission before you have the pleasure of doing so.

Later in that weekend I discussed the Rosa matter at a breakfast and was asked if I knew any proof that the June 17, 1722 Massachusetts Bay parchment paper money issue was caused by the threat of Rosa circulation. I enclose the text of the Act. Do you know of any mention of Rosas in continental America?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'EPN' with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Eric P. Newman

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

September 26, 2001

Hello Eric,

RE: Rosa Americana Coinage

I am in receipt yesterday of your letter. It was delayed in arriving due to an error on the envelope as to my address. I list my home address below, which may be more helpful. Also, my e-mail address is as follows: [briandanf@aol.com](mailto:briandanf@aol.com)

I enjoyed meeting you very much at the ANA Convention, and I appreciate very much your enthusiasm for the research work that I have done on Wood's Money for Ireland and its acceptance there and later arrival in the American colonies. AND, I must apologize for being so tardy in my writing to you as I had promised to write sooner.

As for the Rosa Americana information, I have little to report at this time. I am just starting to do research on the subject matter. Given the time frame at which Wood obtained his Patent to mint said coins, I have always suspected that the Massachusetts General Court in authorizing the printing of small pence paper bills was NOT reacting directly to Rosa Americana coins although I am sure that there must have been resistance to their utterance. In reviewing newspaper accounts in Boston in the 1721-1725 era as to Wood's Hibernia coppers, I noted that the expressed concern in Massachusetts was due to the practice of taking paper currency and cutting it in half or quarters in order to make smaller change, which was adversely affecting the longevity of existing paper money. Thus, I suspected that the real reason why the colony authorized the pence paper notes was to help preserve the life span of existing paper money. Obviously, I need to focus in on this point.

As I had mentioned to you, there was a report in the Boston newspapers that spoke of Wood's Patent to mint the Rosa Americana coins and listed the WEST INDIES as the intended location for the coins to be shipped to. The paper reference in particular is:

SEE ATTACHED NOTE

I do not know at this point if there are other colonial newspapers that referenced the West Indies as the intended location for the Rosa Americana coins. I hope in time, if I am lucky, I may come across other references.

As to the West Indies use of English coppers in the 1720-1740 era, as I mentioned, there was a contemporary reference as to Barbados. I looked through my notes (from the New York State Library in Albany, New York) and it is as follows:

John Oldmixon, The British Empire in America, Containing The History of the Discovery, Settlement, Progress and State of the British Colonies (London, 1742).

An interesting quote from that source is page (ii,165) as follows:

The Eight Pieces, or... Bits...is generally the Money that passes in the Markets or Ordinaries. Light Pieces, and those of baser Alloy, were forbidden to be imported from England, where it was a common Thing to buy up such Pieces, and send them to Barbados. Tho' the Currency of this Money was thus settled, yet there was not enough of it to answer all the Necessities of Trade, and the Merchants bartered the Commodities they imported for Sugar, Cotton, Ginger, and the Product of the Island; Muscovado Sugar being the general Medium of Commerce...."

Well, I hope that this information is of use or interest to you. If you should come across any additional material as to the circulation of Rosa Americana coppers in the American colonies, I would be very interested to learn about said information.

As a parting note, I believe one way that to learn about the circulation of Rosa Americana coins in America is to look at the evidence as revealed from "recovered" coins. I started to collect "recovered" coppers a little while back and have a few Rosas in my collection. In recent conversations with Phil Mossman, we talked of the need to establish an Inventory of recovered Rosa Americana coins similar to the one he maintains for Wood's Hibernia coppers. I believe that he is in the process of doing so.

I enjoyed our meeting very much, and I look forward to another time when we can talk on this subject. Hopefully, by then, I shall be a little more informed and be a better resource than I am at present.

Take Care,



Brian

Brian J. Danforth  
50 Meadowbrook Drive # 154  
Slingerlands, New York 12159

PS. SORRY FOR THE HAND WRITTEN NOTATIONS.  
COMPUTER IS AT MY OFFICE —  
RESEARCH NOTES AT HOME —  
I LEAVE FOR ASIA "NOW" SO I WROTE-OUT  
THE QUOTES  
I CAN TYPE THEM FOR YOU IF YOU SO DESIRE

Bryan J. Danforth  


October 9, 2001

Dear Bryan:

Thank you for your interesting letter of September 26, 2001.

As to your findings about using portions of paper money for change in the 1721-1725 period in Massachusetts, I believe there was a "Currency Committee" and I wonder if it had any comment on the matter. Did the newspapers mention any news from the committee or otherwise?

Isn't it annoying that the parchment paper bills of June 1722 were authorized and issued the same month as the Wood's patent was granted for Hibernias? Because the Rosa authorization was approved promptly thereafter in July 1722 it is reasonable that Massachusetts learned of the negotiations leading up to each of these actions and that the issue of the parchment pieces might have been partly a reaction to that knowledge. It took 5 weeks or longer to get news from England to America as Massachusetts could not have previously ~~known~~ known of the passage of either authorization.

Was there any comment in New York or farther south newspapers as to the Rosa? Since the Rosas were not coined until 1723 the early part of 1723 might have been the date the situation arose in America.

I enclose the statute authorizing the parchment bills. Not only is there an error in the amount of threes to be issued but there is a sex angle. Apparently the typesetter could not decide whether hex or six was correct so he compromised.

I hope you had a successful time in Asia. We have had many wonderful vacations there.

I am going to attend the annual C4 convention (Colonial Coin Collectors Club) in Boston on November 9 and 10 where I will speak a little and listen a lot. Will you attend this? Dr. Mossman will be there.

Keep researching. Your American newspaper findings were new to me.

Thrive,

Eric P. Newman

Mr. Brian J. Danforth

December 12, 2001

[REDACTED]

Your recent letter asking me to work with you on the Rosa matter is very kind as I am much interested in the subject and many items need to be clarified. You will probably have to do most of the work. It ties into my work on the paper money of Massachusetts for the period as well as your work on the Hibernias, etc.

As to where any joint work we produce will be published I realize you are loyal to C4 but I believe the selection of the publisher should be left open depending on the potential readership and the depth of the subject. Perhaps it could be simultaneously published in two places. The Numismatist and CNL are naturally additional alternates.

This letter is full of random thoughts I have on the subject so you can comment on them after thinking about them. I will send you copies of anything I have which will be of convenience to you if you do not have them available. Many of my thoughts are on ambiguous matters.

The letter from Holles Newcastle to the Governor of Massachusetts and New Hampshire dated October 29, 1725 seems to imply that no prior circulation attempt had been made in New England for Rosas. (Crosby p. 166) This letter was written about the same time the Wood's patent was being cancelled. This is strange. Did Newcastle write any other official in any other island or territory? Why did he write at that late time?

The dates of the Hibernia patent and the Rosa patent are the same according to Crosby (p. 148). The Rosa patent is undated in its beginning but dated at the end. What were the dates when recordings on the Patent Roll were made and why was the Rosa recorded first?

The ambiguous and confused quotation from Snelling (p.39 ¶ 2 West India Coinage) copied by Crosby (p. 160) is almost meaningless. Someone was drunk or dropped the type. Who is Winthorpe, when did he go to New York? He could not have taken dies as that would violate the patent and there were no coin presses there. He could have taken some of the accumulation of struck Rosas.

There was no reason in 1722 to believe Rosas would be accepted in New England because the currency committee on June 15, 1722 said that copper half pence were being sent out of the province. The provisions of the Rosa patent had no pressure to enforce circulation because it specifically said Rosas were to be circulated by such as shall be willing to accept the same. (Crosby, p. 153).

There was no publication in the London Gazette of the coining of the Rosas as required by the patent. This also indicates no attempt to circulate them. Was there any published notice required or made in Ireland as to the Hibernias?

Dean Swift mentions rejection in America, but does not give much detail. This may be merely oratory for saying Rosas were not circulated. He specifically mentions New England and an impolite rejection.

Felt adds nothing but mentions the 1725 Rosas episode.

In about 10 places in the Rosa patent the pieces are to circulate in "islands, dominions, and territories in America". This order of sequence indicates the islands may be the primary intended area of circulation.

Crosby points out that the parchment 3 d number of pieces error in the statute and quotes the "sex angular" from the statute without comment.

The 1721 paper money from the Massachusetts small plate had denominations of 1s, 1s6d, 2s, and 2s6d but I presume only the 1s was cut into four pieces to make 3d each and not the others.

The wear on some Hibernia pieces is extensive and shows circulation but the wear on the Rosas is usually minimal on surviving pieces.

Many of the above matters you could have already considered, but they seem very much in need of consideration.

I wish you a pleasant holiday and hope our joint efforts may be  $2+2=5$ .

Thrive,



Eric P. Newman

P.S. Please send me another copy of your last letter to me as the original was mislaid.



John Kalovich  
Bowers + Merena  
P.O. Box 1224  
Wolfeboro NH 03894

12/18/01  
6450 Cecil Ave  
St Louis Mo 63105  
Email ERIC.NM13@AOL.COM

Dear John:

I congratulated you on becoming an instructor at the ANA Summer Seminar in 2002 and wonder if you will enjoy working for the superior of the program as much as I did.

I am sorry I did not get to see you at the Bay State Show and CD Convention in Boston. At the Friday speaker's program I spoke of the text of the Act of Assembly approving the issue of 1d, 2d & 3d parchment paper money of Massachusetts. I enclose a photocopy of the Act itself because it says the issue was because of a need for small change, it contains an error in the omission of "three", and it has a sex angle. The poor type setter could not make up his mind whether hexagonal was right or six angular was right so he compromised with "sex angular". I thought this was hilarious. Crosby quotes it without comment.

Please don't use that observation until I publish it.

Bryan Danforth is responsible for digging up some data on the tearing up of larger denomination bills of prior Mass issues and for the Rosa data about West Indies. I must protect him on this info. I find it amazing that in June 1722 the small Mass bills were approved as was the patent for the Woods Irish pieces and that in July 1722 the Rosas were approved as part of the same deal (bribery) with the Hibernias.

Have a very happy holiday and thrive

Eric



Subj: Re: Legal problem  
Date: 01/31/2002 5:28:01 PM Central Standard Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Eric,

Excuse my delay in replying - but the Law School library only has laws back to the post-Revolution Massachusetts constitution. So I had to consult other libraries.

According to the 1869 edition of The Acts and Resolves of ...Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Act of March 14, 1700 Old Style was never overturned. But statutes are to be construed narrowly, and this statute does not apply to Wood's coinage. Section 2 defines the type of pence: "That every person...shall exchange and pay in current lawful money...the full value of all such pieces having his stamp or marke." In other words, it only applies to coins bearing a PRIVATE stamp or mark; Wood's coinage, however, bore the stamp not of Wood, but of the king, for it was issued under the king's authority.

If we read the statute broadly, and assume that it also applies to coinage bearing the mark of the king, then the statute is contrary to the constitution of England and her plantations; for Blackstone says (Book I, Chapter 7, section V) that "as money is the medium of commerce, it is the king's prerogative, as the arbiter of domestic commerce, to give it authority or make it current." The money of England issued by royal authority has included copper since 1672. Since this prerogative rests in the king, no lawmaking body, whether in England or Massachusetts, can usurp this prerogative, and a patent issued by the king trumps a law of the province of Massachusetts Bay.

I made a photocopy of the text of the law of 1700 (Old Style); I can transcribe it for you, if you list.

Best regards,

John Kleeberg

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Do You Yahoo!?

Great stuff seeking new owners in Yahoo! Auctions!  
<http://auctions.yahoo.com>

[REDACTED]

Friday, February 01, 2002 America Online: [REDACTED]

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 30, 2001

Dear Eric,

I herein finally respond to your October letter. As I mention in Boston, my tardy delay was due to family matters, but I am now available for more speedy correspondence. Also, I appreciate your enclosing a copy of the authorizing bills for the Massachusetts paper pence currency.

As to your questions, I can relay the following information:

- 1) As to the time sequence for William Wood obtaining his Patents:

I am not sure as to the pre-1722 history on the Patent for the Rosa Americana coins although I assume that it was tied somewhat as to timing to the Hibernia Patent. As to the Hibernia Patent, it was initially proposed in 1720 or 1721. There are several references that the proposal was opposed by Robert Walpole in 1721. At that time, he was England's Treasurer. In 1721, Lord Sunderland had control of the proposal and was granted a Patent that year by George I. At the time, Sunderland was the "First" Minister" in the English cabinet or as we have come to say England's Prime Minister. He was also Lord Treasurer for Ireland. Sunderland offered the Patent to Lord Boulton who was then Lord-Lieutenant for Ireland who declined the offer for he felt that it would be too controversial. I attach an article that I wrote and was published in the C4 Newsletter that touches on some of these points. Thereafter, Sunderland offered the Patent to the Duchess of Kendal who sold it to Wood (c. early 1722). Subsequently, Wood obtained Parliament's approval to proceed with production.

- 2) As to Massachusetts paper pence currency:

There was a Proclamation by Massachusetts Governor Samuel Shute dated April 16, 1722 and reported in the Boston News-Letter that read as follows:

"Whereas divers Persons have lately fa'len (sic) into an Evil and Pernicious Practice of Wilful (sic) Tearing or Cutting New Bills of Credit on this Province to accommodate them for change in their Way of Business which is like to prove of very Mischievous Consequence...was never intended for these of a lower Denomination than the Two Shillings Bill...I have therefore...strictly forbidding all Persons whatsoever, as they will avoid the Displeasure of the Government, and prevent the Undervaluing the said Bills...from wilfully (sic) Tearing or Cutting any of the Bills aforesaid; And warning all Persons not to

Receive or Accept of any that are designed and wilfully (sic) torn or cut: And the Treasurer...and all other Officers of the Revenue, are hereby prohibited from Receiving and publick Payments in such Bills...under the Denomination of Two Shillings...."

- 2) In the same newspaper, another reference dated July 9, 1722 reads as follows:

"The Governour was pleased to give His Assent to the following Acts...An Act for Emitting (sic) Five Hundred Pounds in Small Bills, of several Denominations, to be Exchanged for Larger Bills by the Province Treasurer."

- 3) As to gleaning information from Southern newspapers, none existed in the 1722 era. Thus, I have no information as of now as to Rosa Americana coppers being uttered there. But, there was a reference in the Philadelphia American Weekly Mercury of September 27, 1722 as follows that reiterated a report dated London, July 19:

"On Thursday last two Patents passed the great Seal for W. Wood, Esq; to make Copper Money for the Kingdom of Ireland, and Half Pence, Pence and Two Pence of fine mix'd Metal, for Use of his Majesty's Dominions in America, for the Term of 14 Years."

This newspaper report by stating "Dominions in America" would have been an all inclusive reference for the North American colonies and the West Indies. Again, this reference underscores the concept that Wood's Rosa Americana coins were intended for wide circulation in the Americas. As such, it is possible (speculative) that Massachusetts would not have been too concerned about Wood's coppers. At least not concerned enough to print small pence currency as occurred in the summer of 1722. Obviously, more research is needed.

As you may guess, I am at the beginning stage of my research on the Rosa Americana coins. Most of my material stems from my research into Wood's Money as to its circulation in Ireland and its arrival in the American colonies. Thus, as time allows, I am now starting to focus on Rosas.

As pure speculation at this point, the London agent for Massachusetts may have been aware of the Patent to coin coppers for the colonies prior to the public pronouncement in the summer of 1722 that the English Parliament had enacted the necessary enabling legislation. However, I have a *suspicion* the reason why Massachusetts created its pence paper money was to protect the longevity and usefulness of its existing paper currency and NOT in response to Wood's Rosa Americana Patent.

This approach to looking at the pence notes is reinforced by the manner in which the Wood's Patent was reported in the Boston newspapers that the coins had the West Indies as their primary destination for circulation. Obviously, as events unfolded, it was soon realized that the North American colonies were an intended destination for the Rosa

coppers. BUT, this occurred AFTER the Massachusetts Currency Committee had been established.

Further, it is my understanding that the concept for coining coppers for Ireland was kept as a quiet matter, being deemed a "gift" to the beneficiary from the King who held the sole prerogative to coin money. Such an arrangement was one of the major outcries in Ireland upon learning that Wood had receive a Patent to coin coppers for neither the Irish Parliament nor Irish officials were consulted on this development until it was publicly announced as an Act of England's Parliament. I assume that a comparable degree of privacy attended the Rosa Americana Patent. I am reassured in this theory since there is no reference in the London newspapers of either the Hibernia or the Rosa Americana Patents prior to Parliamentary action in the summer of 1722.

I share with you an interest in the relationship between Massachusetts paper pence currency and the Rosa Americana coinage. Thus, I look forward to hearing of any additional information that you may come across in your research efforts. And, I shall share with you additional information as I continue my research on coppers in colonial America.

As a final thought, and I hope that I am not being too presumptuous, I would really enjoy co-authoring an article with you that would outline our research findings--as they become more developed--as to the relationship between the 1722 Massachusetts paper pence currency and Rosa Americana coinage. If this is of any interest to you, please so advise. I think that it would make an interesting article for the C4 Newsletter of which I was recently appointed Assistant Editor.

I wish you and your family a joyous holiday and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Danforth, Ph.D.

